

REMARKS

Summary

Prior to entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 1-3, 6 and 8 were pending, with Claims 1, 6 and 8 being independent claims and the remaining claims, i.e., Claims 2 and 3 being dependent claims. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 6 and 8 have been amended without adding new matter. New Claims 14-17 have been added without adding new matter. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 1, 3, 6, 8 and 14-17 are pending with Claims 1, 6, 8 and 15-17 being independent claims and Claims 3 and 14 being dependent claims. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of Claims 1, 3, 6 and 8 and consideration of Claims 14-17 in view of the amendment above and the remarks below.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Zeng (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0159081) (hereinafter, "Zeng").

Claim 1 is directed to an information processing method for converting input color data including a plurality of color component data and black component data into output color data including a plurality of color component data and black component data, the input color data being dependent on a source device and the output color data being dependent on a destination device, and includes: "obtaining a source profile corresponding to the source device and a destination profile corresponding to the destination device; determining a relationship between lightness levels and black color based on the destination profile; determining, when a black-printing compensation is applied and the input color data indicates a simple black color, output color data for the simple black color having a lightness level equivalent to a lightness level of the input color data, based on the source profile and the determined relationship

between lightness levels and black color; and determining, when the black-printing compensation is not applied or when the black-printing compensation is applied and the input color data does not indicate the simple black color, output color data by using the source profile and the destination profile without using the determined relationship between lightness levels and black color, wherein a value of plurality of color component data included in the input color data determined as the simple black color is 0. "

The invention of Claim 1 uses simple black color (a color in which a value of the plurality of color component data included in the input color data is 0) as a criterion for determining processing, for example, as shown in Fig. 4. When the input color is determined to indicate a simple black color, in Claim 1, processing of "determining, when a black-printing compensation is applied and the input color data indicates a simple black color, output color data for the simple black color having a lightness level equivalent to a lightness level of the input color data, based on the source profile and the determined relationship between lightness levels and black color" is performed. Otherwise, processing in Claim 1 of "determining, when the black-printing compensation is not applied or when the black-printing compensation is applied and the input color data does not indicate the simple black color, output color data for a non simple black color by using the source profile and the destination profile without using the determined relationship between lightness levels and black color" is performed.

The Zeng reference does not teach or suggest performing one of the alternatives described above based on whether the input color is determined to be a simple black color. In other words, the Zeng reference does not teach or suggest, *inter alia*, "determining, when a black-printing compensation is applied and the input color data indicates a simple black color, output color data for the simple black color having a lightness level equivalent to a lightness level of the input color data, based on the source profile and the determined relationship between lightness levels and black color; and determining, when the black-printing compensation is not applied or when the black-printing compensation is applied and the input color data does not indicate the simple black color, output

color data by using the source profile and the destination profile without using the determined relationship between lightness levels and black color.”

The Zeng reference describes converting the source color data (CMYK) into PCS and K data, calculating the gamut-corrected output PCS' color data from the converted PCS, calculating output K' having the same lightness from the converted K data, and obtaining the destination color data (C'M'Y'K') using the calculated PCS' color data, the calculated output K', and the PCS+K look-up table 80 to determine output C'M'Y'K' color data. In the Zeng reference, a series of processes described above is performed in any and all circumstances.

The Zeng reference does not teach or suggest switching between the above-described processes of Claim 1 based on “black-printing compensation” (41 in Fig. 4) and “the simple black color” (42 in Fig. 4).

As described above, Claim 1 includes features not taught or suggested by the Zeng reference. Accordingly, the Zeng reference does not anticipate Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 1 is believed allowable and Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1.

Independent Claims 6 and 8 contain features similar to those discussed above with reference to Claim 1 and are believed allowable for at least the same reasons as those discussed above with reference to Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 6 and 8 are believed allowable. As such, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 6 and 8.

Claim 15 includes features similar to those described above with reference to Claim 1 (except the determination of whether a color is a simple black color). Claim 15 is believed allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

Independent Claims 16 and 17 contain features similar to those discussed above with reference to Claim 15 and are believed allowable for at least the same reasons as those discussed above with reference to Claim 15.

The remaining claims (Claims 3 and 14) are dependent claims. As discussed above, all of the independent claims are believed allowable. Therefore, the dependent claims (Claims 3 and 14) are also believed allowable because they depend from an allowable base claim. Furthermore, each

dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, and individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims pending in the application meet the requirements for patentability and respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate the allowance of such claims.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 502456.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner may contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Marlene Klein/

Date

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